



One City  
All People



April 2013

Volume 1, Issue 2

# News Notes

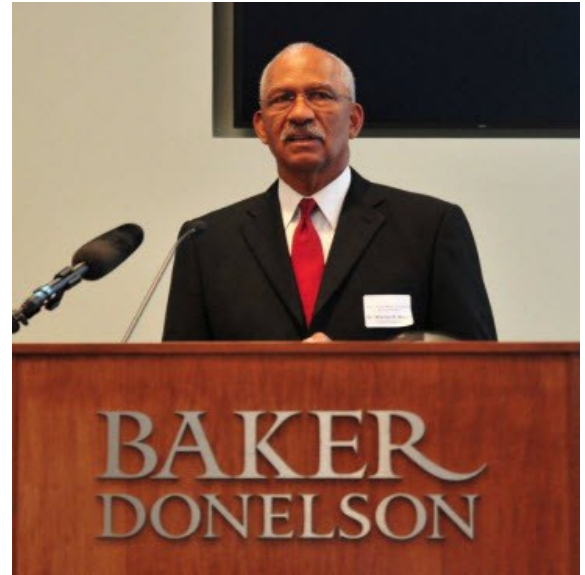
## MHRC HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

- The MHRC has [partnered with the Center for Executive Leadership at Belmont University](#) to introduce a unique conflict transformation program to area businesses. Titled, *Conscious Choosing*, the system equips leaders and managers with positive, [results-driven approaches](#) to conflict in today's diverse workplaces by connecting to the needs that drive all human behavior. [E-mail](#) the MHRC to find out how to bring *Conscious Choosing* to your organization.
- The Commission organized [Metro's 3rd Annual Stand Against Racism](#). Councilman Lonnell Matthews and Hedy Weinberg, Executive Director of the ACLU-TN, were the featured speakers at the event.
- In partnership with the [Metro Public Health Department and Tennessee State University](#), the MHRC presented the first communitywide introduction to [Nonviolent Communication](#).
- MHRC contributed to [NashvilleNext's Background Paper on Equity and Inclusion](#) entitled, [Partnering for an Equitable and Inclusive Nashville](#).
- The MHRC consulted with [MNPS and conducted daylong diversity training sessions](#) for staff and administrators of two departments. Participants gained skill in dealing effectively with religious, spiritual, and racial diversity in the workplace.
- In a partnership with [Conexion Americas and NPT](#), the Commission co-sponsored a screening of the Ken Burns film, *The Central Park Five*, an exploration of the ongoing effects of the wrongful conviction of five black and Latino teens for a brutal crime in 1989.

## Inaugural Executive Director Stresses Importance of MHRC's Mission for Nashville's Next 50 Years

Before an audience of 130 dignitaries, community leaders, and interested citizens, Dr. Warren Moore offered a brief history of the founding of the Metro Human Relations Commission as part of the Metro@50 series, the 50th anniversary celebration of the establishment of Metropolitan Government of Nashville-Davidson County. The luncheon event was sponsored and hosted by Baker Donelson. Dr. Moore led the Commission during its critical first years, beginning in 1967; he was succeeded by Rev. Fred Cloud, his former associate director and now, lifelong friend.

"Today...the landscape has changed. The initial laws in human and civil rights coverage have been broadened, amended, challenged, and in a few cases, corrupted by political appointees who occupy our highest courts," Dr. Moore said. *Continued...*



Dr. Warren Moore, Ph.D., addresses luncheon guests at the Metro Human Relations@50 celebration on March 14.

## Former Chair Scott Ridgway Looks Back on Development of the Metro Human Relations Commission as Six-year Tenure Ends

This month marks the end of my six-year tenure on the Metro Human Relations Commission. During the last three of these years I served as chair of this body, leading MHRC's efforts to address civil rights concerns and promote intercultural understanding within Metro Nashville.



In the time I've spent on the Commission, I have watched MHRC grow and thrive, both in its standing in the community and in the services it offers to Nashville's workers and residents. I am proud to have played a part in this development, helping the Commission respond to concerns on both the citywide and individual levels.

Specifically, MHRC has strengthened its relationships with community partners in the struggle for civil and human rights. We have cemented the Commission's links with other Metro departments, showing them how we can work together to accomplish mutual goals and respond to community concerns. We've established local and citywide events, like last year's Hate Crimes Prevention Forum, to help the general public understand how civil rights issues affect them personally and globally. We've fine-tuned our compliance division, completely overhauling the system to *Continued...*

(from page 1)

## Metro Human Relations@50

"This Commission, after fifty years is yet not a law firm. It has, in spite of perceptions, not become an advocacy group. It is still part of local government. It is the manifestation of the general citizenry's aspiration for a clear voice, and leverage at the center of power,"



said Moore. "It should work within the fabric of government to monitor the delivery of services, and maintain an unbiased position as it reports its findings to both the Commission's Board, as well as the Metro Council.

Ultimately, its existence and functioning should help

Nashville Davidson County

to achieve its goal of becoming a multi-cultural, progressive center, where it is not a strain to envision it as the "Athens of the South."

The event, Metro Human Relations@50, was precisely the kind of occasion desired by anniversary planners, according to Mayor Karl Dean, who also spoke at the event. Mayor Dean and Dr. Moore's remarks were followed by a panel discussion that included, Sen. Thelma Harper, Betty Nixon, John Bridges, Gregg Ramos, and Fred Cloud, and was moderated John Seigenthaler. Each panelist shared stories of their work in human and civil rights, as well as their hopes for a more just, equitable, and inclusive Nashville.

(from page 1)

## Ridgway Reflects on Six-Year Tenure

ensure prompt, thorough, and effective response to discrimination complaints and inquires. Even this newsletter you're reading is part of the progress we've made in the past few years—part of the ongoing effort to raise awareness about human relations issues in Nashville as well as the stature of the Commission itself.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, MHRC has started reaching out to children and teens within Metro Nashville Public Schools. By teaching young people about their rights as Americans and human beings, and the rights of others, we're helping to create a new generation of advocates who will help carry our mission into the future. The Youth Summit we staged last fall is part of this effort, and we hope to make it a regular event that helps promote the issue of human and civil rights within the Middle Tennessee area.

As my current term comes to an end, I find it hard to tear myself away from the work of MHRC and the many friends I made through the Commission. However, between the leadership of Executive Director Caroline Blackwell and the current Chair Daniel Cornfield, I know I am leaving MHRC in capable hands.

Naturally, I intend to keep up with the future endeavors of the Commission and supporting it whenever I can. MHRC has a rich past, a vibrant present, and a promising future... and I am honored to be a part of all three.

*Scott Ridgway*



You are invited to support the work of the MHRC by attending COLLAGE, an introduction to Metro Human Relations Commission's (Community Foundation) Support Fund. The event will be held May 16, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., and is being hosted by Megan and Bruce Barry. Click here for details.

## 2013 Stand Against Racism



### THE METRO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

is dedicated to protecting and promoting the personal dignity, peace, safety, security, health, and general welfare of all people in Nashville and Davidson County. The MHRC's work is organized around the theme, "One City for All People," a touchstone that guides our education, training, advocacy and compliance services.

If you are working to advance equity, equality, and inclusion of people, regardless of race, religion, national origin, color, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, sex, ability, creed, or other protected status, join us in partnership.

If you, a friend, colleague, or loved one is experiencing discrimination based on one of these factors, contact us. We can help.

**Call: (615-880-3370)**

**E-mail: [mhrc@nashville.gov](mailto:mhrc@nashville.gov)**





**COMMUNITY GROUPS WANTED  
FOR 2013 GLOBAL VILLAGE!**

The Metro Human Relations Commission is seeking community groups and organizers to become part of the **2013 Global Village** during **Celebrate Nashville!** Celebrate Nashville is our city's much-anticipated annual cultural festival. Drawing crowds of 50,000 or more, this year's event will be held on October 5th at Centennial Park.

**The Global Village** is established when 15-20 groups representing Nashville's vast racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity come together to share elements of their history and traditions with enthusiastic festival-goers. Culture hosts also perform on the **Global Village Stage**, and this year, leaders from each community will gather again in a unique **Wisdom Circle**.

If you or a member of your community is interested hosting a booth in the **Global Village**, call the MHRC office at 615-880-3370 or [download the application here](#). There is no cost to participate and admission to the daylong festival is free.

## Lipscomb Academic Director and Conflict Specialist Joins MHRC Board



Bringing a focus on research and effective conflict management in community settings, Attorney Phyllis Hildreth, has joined the Metro Human Relations Commission. Hildreth, a Harvard alumna who received her juris doctor from the University of Maryland School of Law, was appointed by Mayor Karl Dean and confirmed by the Metro Council in February. She is the Academic Director at Lipscomb University's Institute for Conflict Management.

A 2011 Leadership Nashville graduate, Hildreth's career in law and community conflict intervention included work as public defender and deputy director of Maryland's Department of Juvenile Justice. A former entrepreneur, Hildreth also brings to the Commission an interest in work in the business sector.

Acknowledging the Commission as a "living laboratory" of public service and governance, Commissioner Hildreth required her students to attend last month's meeting. After observing MHRC deliberations, one of her students took on a research project to better understand the impact of I-40 construction on the historic Jefferson Street area.

## Metro Human Relations Commission Meeting Schedule

The Metro Human Relations Commission convenes the full Board of Commissioners, Executive Board, Standing Committees and ad hoc Committees on a monthly basis and in accordance to the schedules listed below. All meetings are open to the public, free of charge, and governed by parliamentary procedure. Unless otherwise noticed, all committee and full board meetings begin at 4:00 p.m., in the Davidson Room of the Metro Office Building, 800 Second Avenue South, Nashville.

Individuals who need accommodations or auxiliary aids for communication in the programs, services, or activities of the Commission are asked to call or email the department at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled session.

Executive Committee	May 6, 2013
FULL BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS	JUNE 3, 2013
Executive Committee	July 1, 2013
FULL BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS	AUGUST 5, 2013
Executive Committee	September 3, 2012
FULL BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS	OCTOBER 7, 2013
Executive Committee	November 4, 2013
FULL BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS	DECEMBER 2, 2013

## Roster of Commissioners 2013

Mark Baugh, Treasurer  
Dan Cornfield, Chair  
Debra Palmer George, First Vice Chair  
Phyllis Hildreth  
Hollands, King  
Avi Poster  
Sharon Kay  
Drost Kokoye  
Judy Lojek, Secretary  
Alistair Newbern  
Nick Patel  
Loraine Segovia-Paz  
Peter Woolfolk, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair



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Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.— 4:30 p.m.

[www.nashville.gov/humanrelations](http://www.nashville.gov/humanrelations)